



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D C 20520

~~SECRET~~

July 25, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Convention on Continental Shelf  
and Seabeds

Reference: NSDM 62

Al Haig called on July 23 stating that as we were aware the President had made his decision with respect to the Seabeds issue. His position was reflected in NSDM 62. He observed that State and Defense had been successful in reaching a compromise position but the Interior Department held to a protectionist position. As a result of certain efforts emanating in large part from the Interior Department an attempt was underway to try to bring this matter before the President again. He stated that the Department should not be thrown off course in proceeding forthwith to prepare treaty language for submission to the United Nations. He also indicated that the White House would be informing Secretary Hickel that Interior should "cool" it.

I informed Jack Stevenson of the above who indicated that Interior has been trying to have a document submitted to the UN which would be a description of our position rather than proposing treaty language. In the meantime certain committees in Congress have also shown increased interest in this matter. As a consequence, while Jack is proceeding to develop the treaty language for submission to the UN he is also at the same time endeavoring to get Interior on board and to smooth the way with key members of the Congress.

Jack Stevenson indicated he appreciated the information conveyed to us by Al Haig. His program of action is in fact consistent with White House wishes.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "RLB".

Robert L. Brown  
Deputy Executive Secretary